

**--RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 09/641,187 filed August 17, 2000, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 11-247790, filed September 1, 1999 in Japan, Japanese Patent Application No. 11-249830, filed September 3, 1999 in Japan and Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-227413, filed July 27, 2000 in Japan. The contents of the aforementioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference. --

**REMARKS**

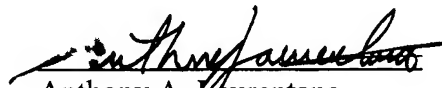
Applicant amends the specification to include the priority information. No new matter is added.

Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully in order and requested.

If there are any questions regarding the amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 9, 2003